

## **E911 WIRELESS PHASE II DEFINITION POLICY**

**Cancels:**  
None

**See Also:**  
None

### **E911 WIRELESS PHASE II DEFINITION POLICY**

#### **1. Background**

- a. Achieving wireless Phase II service has been a goal of both the E911 community and the wireless carriers.
- b. Unlike wireline where there was a clear cut date for the initiation of enhanced 911 service, there is no single measure of success for wireless. This lack of a specific measure of completion is due to the nature of wireless systems as dynamic and evolving services that are expanding in coverage and technical capabilities even as they implement enhanced 911 location capabilities.
- c. The capability of E911 wireless is also changing as it is being implemented again leading to no clear date of completion.

#### **2. Analysis**

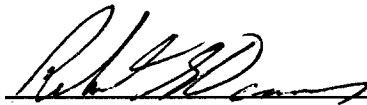
- a. The intent of Wireless Phase II is to provide the location of the caller to the Public Safety Answering Point when 911 is dialed.
- b. Technically many steps and processes are involved, but for purposes of this discussion, the completion must be measured in terms of when an outcome is achieved. That outcome is the display of a wireless caller's location in terms of latitude and longitude at the console of the answering Telecommunicator.
- c. Accuracy is an issue, but if the work has been accomplished that permits the caller's location to be displayed, the accuracy of that information becomes an operational question
- d. Wireless communications is a commodity service where competitive offerings are available in all markets of Washington State.
- e. The Federal Communications Commission has included in its requirements for all wireless carriers that they provide Phase II E911 location capability.
- f. To a large degree the question of Phase II availability is asked due to an arbitrary requirement for data collection or comparative analysis of implementation progress.
- g. It is for many reasons not quantifiable in other than subjective terms of availability.

- h. Quantifying the availability of Phase II would require a set of measurements that would need to account for issues such as accuracy requirements that are difficult to measure, are changing rapidly, and which have little or no direct relevance to the consumer.

**3. Decision**

- a. Phase II is a state of readiness more than an actual measurable accomplishment and it is accomplished in a framework of competition where consumers could make purchasing decisions based on that readiness.
- b. Therefore, if in a county one wireless carrier is delivering Phase II service to the PSAP(s), for purposes of defining availability that county will be considered as having achieved Phase II wireless service.

Approved by:



Robert Oenning, State 911 Administrator

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